

422nd CAB opens women's safe house in Baghdad

Story and photo by Mark S. Rickert, 372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The need for a shelter for abused women became clear to the Soldiers of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion Special Operations Team when an Iraqi woman came to the Iraqi Forum Building looking for help recently.

She told Soldiers working there that her brother had threatened her life, claiming she had disgraced the family. The woman had nowhere safe to go, she said.

The special operations team searched for a solution. The next day, they found a place for the woman to stay, but by then it was too late. The woman never came back.

Because of the seriousness of the threats made to her, some members of the team said they believe she lost her life.

This eye-opening incident prompted the civil affairs team to establish a temporary safe house where troubled women could go for protection.

With the project nearing completion, the team sponsored an orientation class for the social workers at the Iraqi Forum in Baghdad Feb. 14.

The safe house is scheduled to open soon within the Green Zone in the city's center.

For their future roles at the safe house, the social workers and caretakers involved with the project learned how to support and care for battered women.

Capt. Stacey S. Simms, chief of special projects team of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, 1st Armored Division, said supporting and providing a sanctuary for abused woman is a fairly new concept to the country. For this reason, international groups are teaching the social workers to be nonjudgmental, sensitive and objective toward these women, regardless of the their situations and the circumstances that surround the abuse.

The goal, aside from getting the woman out of harm's way, is to offer temporary mental health help and support, Simms explained.

"We are hoping to train social workers well enough so that they can provide counseling and immediately determine what type of help the woman wants and needs," said Simms. "The social workers try to determine what the woman hopes to accomplish."

The safe house's primary purpose is to provide 24-hour emergency access for women who have been



Capt. Stacey S. Simms, chief of special projects team of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, 1st Armored Division, discusses a new shelter for abused Iraqi women with the social workers who will provide assistance at the sanctuary.

abused or threatened -- giving them a temporary place to stay until additional help is available.

The safe house is large enough to comfortably house eight to 10 women. It has a kitchen, a recreational room, computers and a library. Aside from these accommodations, the staff of social workers will provide support for the victims.

The interim facility is scheduled to open in February. Plans for a long-term women's shelter are under development.

Simms said he hopes to spread the word about the shelter throughout the city. In the meantime, Iraqi women who turn to the coalition forces for help will be directed to the safe house.

The new safe house reflects positive changes within the country, Simms said. Until now, abused women had nowhere to go. With new facilities and a new way of thinking, Iraqi women are starting to stand up for themselves.

"This is the epitome of the new Iraq," said Simms. "People here are thinking on their own, expressing true feelings and emotions, and they are openly talking about issues never allowed publicly before."

NEWS...

GIs Arrest 2 Iraqi Police Terror Suspects

TIKRIT, Iraq (AP) - U.S. soldiers arrested a pair of Iraqi policemen on suspicion they were members of Saddam Hussein's Fedayeen militia. The two were arrested Saturday at their homes, where police also confiscated a rifle, pistol and two machine guns, said Maj. Josslyn Aberle, spokeswoman of the 4th Infantry Division.

8 Killed in Jerusalem Suicide Bus Blast

JERUSALEM (AP) - A suicide bomber blew himself up on a crowded Jerusalem bus Sunday morning, killing eight people and wounding 59 in an attack Israeli officials said proved the need for its disputed security barrier. The attack came just a day before the International Court of Justice at the Hague was to begin hearings on the barrier, which Israel says is critical to keeping out the bombers that have killed hundreds of Israelis in more than three years of violence.

Milosevic War Crimes Judge Steps Down

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) - The presiding judge in Slobodan Milosevic's war crimes trial will resign for health reasons. Judge Richard May of Britain will step down from the high-profile judgeship in three months, coinciding with the start of the former Yugoslav president's defense at the U.N. war crimes tribunal.

Rebels Approach Haitian Port City Center

CAP-HAITIEN Haiti (AP) - Rebels on Sunday attacked the government's last major stronghold in the north, Cap-Haitien, and witnesses reported heavy gunfire and explosions as the insurgents pushed toward the city center. Smoke billowed from the Cap-Haitien airport, where a manager with Tropical Airways said rebels commandeered a plane. The telephone line was cut before Allen Alexandre could say more.

Ralph Nader Announces Run for Presidency

WASHINGTON (AP) - Consumer advocate Ralph Nader announced Sunday he will run again for the presidency, declaring that Washington has become "corporate occupied territory" and arguing there is too little difference between the Democratic and Republican parties. "This country has more problems and injustices than it deserves," Nader said, bemoaning a "democracy gap." Nader, who turns 70 this week, said he wants to "challenge this two-party duopoly."

Kerry Decries Bush Over Attacks on Record

ATLANTA (AP) - Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry accused President Bush of using surrogates to attack his military service in Vietnam and his subsequent activism against that war. In a letter to Bush on Saturday, Kerry wrote: "As you well know, Vietnam was a very difficult and painful period in our nation's history, and the struggle for our veterans continues. So, it has been hard to believe that you would choose to reopen these wounds for your personal political gain. But, that is what you have chosen to do."

Entertainment...

Lost Beach Boys Album Premieres in U.K.

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) -- In 1967, Beach Boys songwriter Brian Wilson shelved "Smile," an ambitious concept album intended as the group's masterpiece.

Thirty-seven years later, "Smile" received its live premiere in London - and most critics agreed it was worth the wait.

Wilson, 61 and performing again after years as a near recluse, received a five-minute standing ovation at the end of Friday's show at London's Royal Festival Hall.

A black-clad Wilson led an 18-piece band in performances of several Beach Boys hits, followed by the complete "Smile" - concluding with its best-known track, the pop classic "Good Vibrations."

Fans were rapturous. The Guardian newspaper hailed the work's "groundbreaking complexity and sophistication," while The Daily Telegraph called it "a glorious, tangled symphony of celebration and sadness."

"Smile" was intended as a follow-up to The Beach Boys' groundbreaking 1966 album "Pet Sounds," and its lush orchestration took advantage of advances in recording technology.

The perfectionist Wilson worked for months to build the album's multilayered sound, but shelved it shortly before its scheduled release, explaining that the songs were "not commercial."

Over the years, "Smile" gained a reputation among fans as the band's lost masterpiece.

It may not deserve that status, Times of London critic Stephen Dalton wrote Saturday, but he nonetheless hailed "the grace and wisdom" Wilson displayed.

"Smile," he said, was "a 40-minute crazy-paving collage of song fragments and Looney Tunes jingles, all bookended by the lush glory of 'Heroes and Villains' and the rapturous warble of 'Good Vibrations' ... It was clearly adventurous for its era but it is not difficult to see why Wilson's label and fellow Beach Boys balked at releasing it."

Wilson is due to play five more London concerts this week, followed by several dates around Britain and continental Europe.

Thought for the day...

Bible

Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties; write its precepts on your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this Book we are indebted for the progress made, and to this we must look as our guide in the future.

--Ulysses S. Grant

Today in History...

February 23, 1945: U.S. FLAG ON IWO JIMA

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) During the bloody Battle for Iwo Jima, U.S. Marines from the 3rd Platoon, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Division take the crest of Mount Suribachi, the island's highest peak and most strategic position, and raise the U.S. flag. Marine photographer Louis Lowery was with them and recorded the event. American soldiers fighting for control of Suribachi's slopes cheered the raising of the flag, and several hours later more Marines headed up to the crest with a larger flag. Joe Rosenthal, a photographer with the Associated Press, met them along the way and recorded the raising of the second flag along with a motion-picture cameraman.

Rosenthal took three photographs atop Suribachi. The first, which showed five Marines and one Navy corpsman struggling to hoist the heavy flag pole, became the most reproduced photograph in history and won for him a Pulitzer Prize. The accompanying motion-picture footage attests to the fact that the picture was not posed. Of the other two photos, the second was similar to the first but less affecting, and the third was a group picture of 18 soldiers smiling and waving for the camera. Many of these men, including three of the six soldiers seen raising the flag in the famous Rosenthal photo, were killed before the conclusion of the Battle for Iwo Jima in late March.

In early 1945, U.S. military command sought to gain control of the island of Iwo Jima in advance of the projected aerial campaign against the Japanese home islands. Iwo Jima, a tiny volcanic island located in the Pacific about 700 miles southeast of Japan, was to be a base for fighter aircraft and an emergency-landing site for bombers. On February 19, 1945, after three days of heavy naval and aerial bombardment, the first wave of U.S. Marines stormed onto Iwo Jima's inhospitable shores.

The Japanese garrison on the island numbered 22,000 heavily entrenched men. Their commander, General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, had been expecting an Allied invasion for months and used the time wisely to construct an intricate and deadly system of underground tunnels, fortifications, and artillery that withstood the initial Allied bombardment. By the evening of the first day, despite incessant mortar fire, 30,000 U.S. Marines commanded by General Holland Smith managed to establish a solid beachhead.

During the next few days, the Marines advanced inch by inch under heavy fire from Japanese artillery and suffered suicidal charges from the Japanese infantry. Many of the Japanese defenders were never seen and remained underground manning artillery until they were blown apart by a grenade or rocket, or incinerated by a flame thrower. While Japanese *kamikaze* flyers slammed into the Allied naval fleet around Iwo Jima, the Marines on the island continued their bloody advance across the island, responding to Kuribayashi's lethal defenses with remarkable endurance. On February 23, the crest of 550-foot Mount Suribachi was taken, and the next day the slopes of the extinct volcano were secured.

By March 3, U.S. forces controlled all three airfields on the island, and on March 26 the last Japanese defenders on Iwo Jima were wiped out. Only 200 of the original 22,000 Japanese defenders were captured alive. More than 6,000 Americans died taking Iwo Jima, and some 17,000 were wounded.

Reenlistment bonus available until soldiers depart Theater

Currently, more than 1,400 soldiers have taken advantage of the deployed force reenlistment bonus since October. Soldiers must understand the bonus is no longer available once they redeploy to their home station.

The most frequently asked question from soldiers is "how long am I eligible for the reenlistment bonus?"

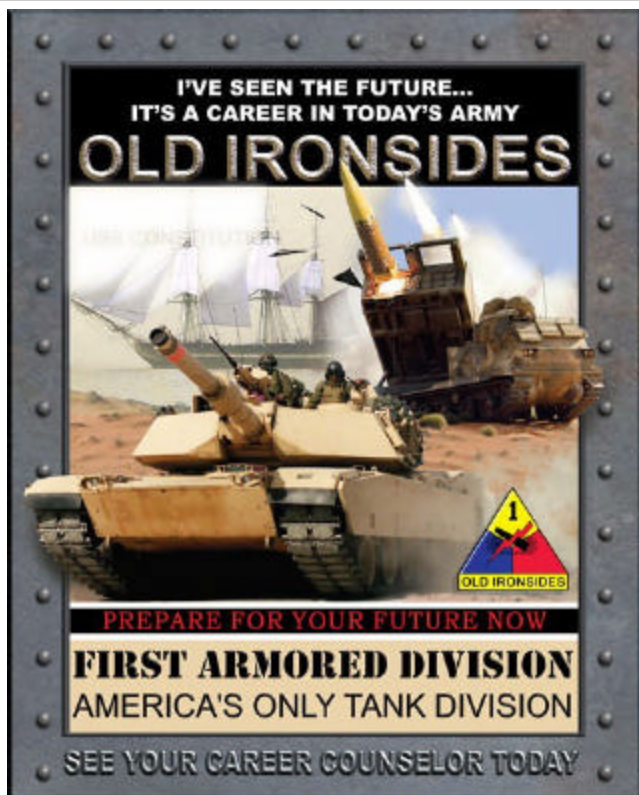
The answer is simple: once a soldier leaves Iraq, Afghanistan, or Kuwait, the lump sum tax-free bonus no longer exists.

As we begin to redeploy, our Career Counselors and key retention personnel will become much less accessible as they will be spread thin throughout Iraq, Kuwait, and Germany.

Soldiers eligible for this incentive are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity well in advance of their expected redeployment date. Soldiers should contact their Career Counselors who are standing by to assist our Iron Soldiers in continuing to serve proudly and "Stay Army."

For more information, contact your career counselor.

- Command Career Counselor: SGM James Jaranowski, 551-9405
- Retention Operations NCO: MSG Gary Schoolfield, 551-9405
- 1st Brigade: SFC Burke, Martyrs' Monument, 550-7027
- 2nd Brigade: SSG Gibson, Presidential Palace, 551-2010
- 4th Brigade: MSG Wolfe, 551-6620
- DIVARTY: SFC Hilton, 551-7030
- DIVENG: MSG Collier, 551-6131
- DISCOM SFC Casnave, 551-9405
- Division Troops: SFC Nagle, 551-9405



The Old Ironsides Report

February 23, 2004

| myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2004 | | | | As of: Sunday, February 22, 2004 8:39:04 PM | |
|---|--|--|---|---|------------------------------|
| Start Time | SPORTS | ATLANTIC | SPECTRUM | PACIFIC | NEWS |
| 00:00 | | | AMERICAN IDOL | MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: MARYLAND @ DUKE | CNN SUNDAY |
| 01:00 | | | AMERICAN IDOL | | MEET THE PRESS |
| 01:30 | | ESPNEWS | THE TWILIGHT ZONE : - MR. DINGLE, THE STRONG | | |
| 02:00 | | PGA PREVIEW - WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS: ACCENTURE MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW SHOW | FANTASY ISLAND : - OVER THE HILL CAPER/ POOF, YOU'RE A MOVIE STAR | SESAME STREET | TIM RUSSERT |
| 02:30 | SPORTSCENTER | ESPNEWS | | | |
| 03:00 | NBA - LOS ANGELES LAKERS @ PHOENIX SUNS | HEADLINE NEWS | ROCKET POWER : - LEGENDS AND THEIR FALLS/ WELCOME TO OTTOWORLD | DORA: THE EXPLORER : - HIDE AND GO SEEK | FOX REPORT |
| 03:30 | | SEINFELD : - THE IMPLANT | THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS | WHEEL OF FORTUNE | |
| 04:00 | | THAT 70'S SHOW : - KITTY'S BIRTHDAY (THAT'S TODAY?) | THE SIMPSONS : - DANCIN' HOMER | THE DR. PHIL SHOW | THIS WEEK |
| 04:30 | | ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT | THE COSBY SHOW : - CLAIR'S SISTER | | |
| 05:00 | | | BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - STORYTELLER | THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW | DATeline INTERNATIONAL |
| 05:30 | | WWE SMACKDOWN! | | | |
| 06:00 | WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG XII: TEXAS @ TEXAS TECH | | LAW & ORDER : - WHIPLASH | HEADLINE NEWS | 60 MINUTES |
| 06:30 | | AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM | | JUDGE JUDY | |
| 07:00 | | MEET THE PRESS | NOVA : - THE ELEGANT UNIVERSE: STRING'S THE THING (PT. 2) | ACCESS HOLLYWOOD | CNN PRESENTS |
| 07:25 | | | | GUIDING LIGHT | |
| 08:00 | NBA FASTBREAK | HEADLINE NEWS | MONSTER GARAGE : - NU-SHAKER | | LARRY KING LIVE |
| 08:13 | | | | GENERAL HOSPITAL | |
| 08:30 | COLLEGE GAMENIGHT | ESPNEWS | | | |
| 09:00 | ESPNEWS | SESAME STREET | RIO LOBO | LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES : - CLIP | AT LARGE WITH GERALDO RIVERA |
| 09:30 | THE SPORTS REPORTERS | | | DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TV-7): - SUBZERO ICE PUNCH | |
| 10:00 | SPORTSCENTER | DORA: THE EXPLORER : - HIDE AND GO SEEK | | DRAGONFLY TV (YR. 1) | ACCESS HOLLYWOOD |
| 10:30 | | WHEEL OF FORTUNE | | EVEN STEVENS : - GET A JOB | |
| 11:00 | SPORTSCENTER | THE DR. PHIL SHOW | ROCKET POWER : - LEGENDS AND THEIR FALLS/ WELCOME TO OTTOWORLD | JEOPARDY! | BELTWAY BOYS |
| 11:30 | NHL - COLORADO AVALANCHE @ MINNESOTA WILD | | THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS | HEADLINE NEWS | FOX NEWS WATCH |
| 11:46 | | THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW | | | |
| 11:52 | | | | PACIFIC REPORT | |
| 12:00 | | | THE SIMPSONS : - DANCIN' HOMER | ESPNEWS | BULLS & BEARS |
| 12:30 | | | THE COSBY SHOW : - CLAIR'S SISTER | HEADLINE NEWS | CAVUTO ON BUSINESS |
| 12:35 | | GUIDING LIGHT | | | |
| 12:52 | | | | PACIFIC REPORT | |
| 13:00 | | | BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - STORYTELLER | FRONTLINE: BEYOND BAGHDAD | 60 MINUTES |
| 13:17 | | GENERAL HOSPITAL | | | |
| 14:00 | SPORTSCENTER | HEADLINE NEWS | LAW & ORDER : - WHIPLASH | NYPD BLUE : - NUDE AWAKENING | CNN DAYBREAK |
| 14:30 | | JUDGE JUDY | | | |
| 15:00 | | TODAY | NOVA : - THE ELEGANT UNIVERSE: STRING'S THE THING (PT. 2) | WITHOUT A TRACE : - SNATCH BACK | GOOD MORNING AMERICA |
| 15:30 | AFL - COLORADO CRUSH @ CHICAGO RUSH | | | | |
| 16:00 | | | MONSTER GARAGE : - NU-SHAKER | HEADLINE NEWS | |
| 16:22 | | | | PACIFIC REPORT | |
| 16:30 | | | | TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO | |
| 17:00 | | LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES : - CLIP | RIO LOBO | | HEADLINE NEWS |
| 17:30 | | DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TV-7): - SUBZERO ICE PUNCH | | THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN | CHANNEL ONE |
| 17:45 | | | | | ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING |
| 18:00 | | DRAGONFLY TV (YR. 1) | | | THE EARLY SHOW |
| 18:30 | ESPNEWS | EVEN STEVENS : - GET A JOB | | ACCESS HOLLYWOOD | |
| 19:00 | SPORTSCENTER | JEOPARDY! | ROCKET POWER : - LEGENDS AND THEIR FALLS/ WELCOME TO OTTOWORLD | A LESSON BEFORE DYING | |
| 19:30 | | HEADLINE NEWS | THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS | | |
| 20:00 | | ESPNEWS | THE SIMPSONS : - DANCIN' HOMER | | FOX NEWS LIVE |
| 20:30 | MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: WASHINGTON @ NC STATE | HEADLINE NEWS | THE COSBY SHOW : - CLAIR'S SISTER | | |
| 20:45 | | | | COOL HAND LUKE | |
| 21:00 | | FRONTLINE: BEYOND BAGHDAD | BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - STORYTELLER | | 60 MINUTES |
| 22:00 | | NYPD BLUE : - NUDE AWAKENING | LAW & ORDER : - WHIPLASH | | FOX NEWS LIVE |
| 22:30 | MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: WAKE FOREST @ GEORGIA TECH | | | | |
| 23:00 | | WITHOUT A TRACE : - SNATCH BACK | NOVA : - THE ELEGANT UNIVERSE: STRING'S THE THING (PT. 2) | ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST | HEADLINE NEWS |
| 23:30 | | | | HEADLINE NEWS | CNN'S INSIDE POLITICS |